(c) whether market prices will be offered to farmers;

(d) what steps Government would take to ensure a safety net for farmers losing land due to Government acquisitions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No proposal on creating a Land Bank to buy and acquire land is under consideration of the Government of India. Land being a State subject in the Constitution, its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments. The role of the Central Government in this regard is only advisory and coordinating. Each State acquires land for various purposes under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which is also applicable for acquisition of land for industries.

(c) to (e) Suitable amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and revision of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families, 2003 is under active consideration of the Government.

Inclusion of Theni under NREGA

1192. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a proposal to include Theni under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) In accordance with Section 1(3) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005, the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the territory, to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of its enactment. NREGA was enacted on 7th September, 2005 and thus, all the districts are to be covered by 7th September, 2010. Theni district of Tamil Nadu is, at present, not covered under the Act.

Job cards under NREGA in Jharkhand

1193. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many rural families are there in Jharkhand belonging to SC, ST and OBC, the details thereof, category-wise;

(b) how many of them have been issued job cards under NREGA; and

(c) how long will it take to issue job cards to the remaining families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The information is being collected from the State Government.